



City of New Bedford
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

City of New Bedford
Office of the Mayor
Contact: Elizabeth Treadup
(508) 979-1410
Elizabeth.Treadup@ci.new-bedford.ma.us

Date: November 2, 2007
For Immediate Release

P R E S S R E L E A S E

New Bedford Awarded Solar Powered Trash Compactors

*Clean Energy Compactors and 50 Additional Trash Receptacles to be
Distributed Throughout New Bedford's Neighborhoods*

New Bedford, Massachusetts- What gobbles lots of trash, is fueled entirely by sunrays and saves money and the environment in the process? The answer is solar powered "Big Belly" trash compactors and Mayor Scott W. Lang and State Senator Mark C. Montigny announced today that the City of New Bedford was awarded three new trash compactors by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative Renewable Energy Trust. The program is designed to promote clean renewable energy technologies, in this case solar energy, while assisting communities to enhance revitalized areas.

"The average New Bedford resident throws away about 30 pounds of trash a week and on a daily basis, many city resources are employed to address the solid waste and ancillary problems. Overflowing trash receptacles are unsightly and perpetuate the litter that too often blows about in our city streets. These solar powered trash compactors are a clean energy, environment friendly and cost effective way to keep New Bedford clean while conserving valuable city resources," said Mayor Scott W. Lang

Senator Mark Montigny said, "It is our crucial responsibility to sustain and enhance the city's physical well being and livability. By strengthening the appeal of New Bedford's landscape we are not only cleaning up our streets but are spurring economic activity. The ability to attract shoppers to our city would be greatly increased by improving the visual appeal of New Bedford's downtown."

The Big Belly compactors have a built-in solar panel that powers the internal compactor, which crushes trash at the point of disposal. The solar powered trash compactors are so efficient they will eliminate four out of every five collection trips city crews make to empty a regular trash barrel, allowing personnel to attend to other priorities. In addition,

the compactors are designed to discourage illegal dumping and pilfering, and to deter animals from getting into the trash as well.

"MTC is working with leaders like Senator Montigny and the entire New Bedford delegation to bring the benefits of clean energy to southeastern Massachusetts as well as communities across the state," said MTC Executive Director Mitchell Adams. "Perhaps best of all, these innovative solar-powered trash compactors are made by Seahorse Power Company, a local company that is an important part of our fast-growing clean energy sector in Massachusetts."

Mayor Lang is working to incorporate sustainable and environmentally conscious practices in a variety of municipal operations and in concert with the beautification of city neighborhoods. Earlier this year, in an effort to better control refuse in the commercial districts, the Mayor returned a city operated collection truck to the streets. This has minimized the amount of solid waste on sidewalks in the downtown business district during peak hours and has increased commercial recycling, which has generated significant revenue. With the recycling revenue New Bedford has purchased 50 new trash receptacles to be located in business districts and areas with high levels of pedestrian traffic.

Mayor Lang also appointed individuals with the knowledge and passion for energy efficiency, sustainability and improving the environment to serve on the Mayor's Sustainability Task Force. The group is working to develop long-range recommendations and implementation plans for better municipal energy and environmental practices to present to the Mayor in report format. The task force is seeking community involvement at a public meeting on November 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the Buttonwood Senior Center

###